

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL MUNICH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7240

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

UNCLAS MUNICH 1633

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, GW, WB

SUBJECT: MINJUSTICE VOGEL ON TERRORISM, SPD ELECTION PROSPECTS

1. FEDERAL MINJUSTICE AND BAVARIAN SPD LAND CHAIRMAN VOGEL GAVE 90 MINUTE PRESS CONFERENCE AT MUNICH PRESS CLUB JULY 12. BULK OF QUESTIONS FOCUSSED ON FRG'S EFFORTS TO COMBAT TERRORISM, RECENT ESCAPE OF FOUR WOMEN TERRORISTS FROM BERLIN PRISON, AND SPD'S ELECTION PROSPECTS.

2. TERRORISM IN FRG. STRUGGLES AGAINST TERRORISM IN FRG IS HANDICAPPED BY INCREASING INTERNATIONALISATION OF TERRORISM, SAID VOGEL. THIS MEANS ALL STATES MUST COOPERATE AND NONE SHOULD SUPPORT TERRORISM. THERE ARE PRESENTLY ABOUT 140 TERRORISTS IN FRG JAILS; THIS REPRESENTS A SIZEABLE PORTION OF TERRORISTS IN FRG. VOGEL HAD HEARD THE RUMORS THAT TERRORISTS FROM FRG HAD MADE THEIR WAY TO SCHOENEFELD AIRPORT FROM WHENCE THEY PROCEEDED TO MIDDLE EAST FOR TRAINING. SUCH RUMORS COULD NOT RPT NOT BE CONFIRMED, UNCLASSIFIED

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HE SAID.

3. TERRORISTS ESCAPE FROM BERLIN PRISON. VOGEL EMPHASIZED THAT ALL PRISONS IN FRG ARE UNDER "LAENDER" ADMINISTRATION. LAENDER ARE PRESENTLY EXAMINING ADEQUACY OF THEIR PRISONS AND MAKING APPROPRIATE CHANGES, SAID VOGEL. VOGEL SAW NO REASON WHY THERE SHOULD BE OTHER JAILBREAKS LIKE RECENT ONE, BUT OBSERVED THERE WOULD BE JAILBREAKS AS LONG AS JAILS EXISTED. VOGEL ASSERTED THAT MASS MEDIA WERE ALSO PARTIALLY AT FAULT IN ESCAPE OF 4 WOMEN TERRORISTS FROM BERLIN PRISON: MEDIA ORIGINALLY CLAMORED AGAINST ISOLATION OF TERRORISTS, BUT NOW SAY THEY SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN INCARCERATED TOGETHER.

4. SPD ELECTION PROSPECTS. VOGEL DECLARED HIMSELF QUITE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT SPD (AND FDP) PROSPECTS IN OCTOBER BUNDESTAG ELECTIONS. REASON WHY CDU AND CSU ARE CONDUCTING SUCH AN EMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN, E.G. PUSHING SLOGAN OF "FREEDOM OR/INSTEAD OF SOCIALISM," IS THAT THEY CANNOT FIND CONCRETE ISSUES ON WHICH TO ATTACK GOVERNMENT. BEST ISSUE FOR COALITION TO RIDE TO VICTORY ON IS FACT THAT ALL INDICATORS SHOW THAT ECONOMY IS ON UPSWING. HIS DECLARED OPTIMISM NOTWITHSTANDING, VOGEL OBSERVED SOMEWHAT DEFENSIVELY THAT ALTHOUGH NUMBER OF SPD MEMBERS IN BAVARIA HAS RISEN SLIGHTLY AND NOT, AS REPORTED, DECLINED, CSU NOW HAS "SEVERAL THOUSAND" MORE MEMBERS HERE THAN SPD. ONLY THING VOGEL WOULD SAY ABOUT FRAGMENTED MUNICH SPD WAS THAT ITS UNITY HAS "IMPROVED." BETTS

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